

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A polypeptide immunogen consisting of an amino acid sequence with up to ~~26~~ 15 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to ~~20~~ 10 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists essentially of amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An immunogen comprising a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence with up to ~~26~~ 15 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*, and one or more additional regions or moieties covalently joined to said polypeptide at the carboxyl terminus or the amino terminus, wherein each region or moiety is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability, ~~and said additional region or moiety is different from a said region.~~

Claim 6 (previously presented): A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of the immunogen of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 6, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

Claims 8-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 21 (new): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 10 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 22 (new): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 5 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 23 (new): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 1 amino acid alteration from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 24 (new): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists essentially of amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 25 (new): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 26 (new): A composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide immunogen consisting of an amino acid sequence with up to 15 amino acid

alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said polypeptide immunogen provides protective immunity against a *S. aureus* comprising a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 7.

Claim 27 (new): The composition of claim 26, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified.

Claim 28 (new): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 10 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 29 (new): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 5 amino acid alterations from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 30 (new): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence with up to 1 amino acid alteration from SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 31 (new): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists essentially of amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 32 (new): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.